

Community Board 12, Manhattan
Minutes of the January 26, 2016 General Meeting
Isabella Geriatric Center (515 Audubon Ave., NYC 10040)

Board Members Present: Richard Allman; Shahabuddeen Ally; Yahaira Alonzo; Mary Anderson; Glennis Aquino; Anita Barberis; Wayne Benjamin; James Berlin; Isaiah “Obie” Bing; Aldemar De Jesus Diaz; Katherine Diaz; Domingo Estevez; Fe Florimon; Barbara Frazier; Wanda Garcia; Mitchell Glenn; Osi Kaminer; Andrea Kornbluth; Elizabeth Lehmann; Richard R. Lewis; Elizabeth Lorris Ritter; Maria Luna; Jay Mazur; Priscilla Mota-Willis; Estevan Nembhard; Ayisha Ogilvie; Maurice Owen-Michaane; Pamela Palanque-North; Jonathan Reyes; Liliana Saneaux; Arlene Schulman; Steve Simon; Alyce Smith; Luis Tapia; Javier Trejo. **Board Members Absent:** Manny de los Santos; George Fernandez; Yosef Kalinsky (excused); David Mattera; Isidro Medina; Rud Morales; Terriell Peters; Angela Sanchez; Jason Tejada; Gloria Vanterpool; Felipe Wytik Sanchez. **Staff:** Ebenezer Smith, Debora Blow, Paola Garcia

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7:15pm **Call to order;** quorum achieved.

7:16pm **Swearing in of the newly-elected officers,** Shahabuddeen Ally, Chair; Pamela Palanque-North, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair; Isaiah “Obie” Bing, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair; Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Secretary; Elizabeth Lehmann, Assistant Secretary; and George Fernandez, Treasurer, by the Hon. Jeanette Ruiz

7:17pm **Adoption of the agenda** (as amended): motion by Richard Lewis, second by Mary Anderson; approved unanimously by voice vote.

7:18pm **Minutes of December:** motion to adopt by Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, second by R. Lewis; approved unanimously by voice vote.

7:20pm **Highlights of Chair’s report,** the full text of which is included in members’ packets:

- All packets include materials (minutes, resolutions) which were distributed in advance and are sorted by tabs for easy reference and advance preparation.
- Update regarding the Associated Supermarket and the fight to keep it in place though the lease has expired and the landlord rented to a Walgreen’s. There was a large protest on Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>, with a lot of press coverage, and a court date of Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> for an eviction proceeding. Kudos to the Business Development Committee, the Hudson Heights Owners Coalition and our elected officials for their actions on behalf of the community.
- CB12 Leadership Academy started last month with training on multimedia system by the District Manager. Every month for one half-hour prior to the Executive Committee meeting, there will be a brief training session on a wide range of topics: resolution writing, bylaws, budget priorities, etc.
- Meeting schedule for the first half of 2016 has been set in advance, which see.
- We honor and recognize the accomplishment of the residents of this community. Award and recognition to Hon. Jeanette Ruiz, Administrative Judge of the NYC Family Court. She is responsible for managing Family Courts in all of the five boroughs. The Family Court hears matters involving children and families and has the authority to make legal decisions over the cases involving abused or neglected children, adoptions, custody and visitation, domestic violence, guardianship, child/spousal support, and other matters of family law.

7:25pm **Special fire safety presentation by FDNY** Distributing smoke / CO2 detectors. They last ten years with built-in batteries that don’t need to be replaced. After 10 years, get a new unit altogether. The units also include a “hush” button so they are less likely to go off in smoky conditions, and people are less likely to disable them.

7:29pm **Highlights of District Manager’s report,** the full text of which is included in members’ packets:

- Participating in a working group with the SLA working group with the SLA Chair and members of the Restaurant/Nightlife Assn. Two proposed items of legislation include one to remove the prohibition against having an SLA-licensed establishment that can only be accessed from another, non-SLA-licensed establishment (as, for example, requiring that the bar of a hotel have a separate entrance apart from the

lobby of said hotel). Another would permit sale of alcohol on Sunday mornings before noon (i.e., for brunch) if the establishment is otherwise permitted to serve alcohol pursuant to its SLA license. Next meeting postponed until March.

- Brown water situation: PANYNJ working on repair of a pipe; water had to be shut down at the trunk. There was a lot of sediment which affected all over the neighborhood, from mid-morning until night on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. DEP was asked to conduct tests even though it is “just sediment”. P. Palanque-North noted that water pressure is very low in her part of the district. Arlene Schulman for copy of the results of the DEP test. The Chair noted that DEP will be speaking at the February Health & Environment Committee meeting.
- Memorial for Michael Mowatt-Winn, recently deceased long-time President of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Precinct Community Council will be held Sunday afternoon, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 3pm at the Hispanic Society.

7:40pm **Report by NYC Councilmember Mark Levine, 7<sup>th</sup> CD**

- We didn’t drink any of the brown water. How many of you did that? Stores were empty by mid-evening on Friday which shows the demand. Looking to explore legislation for DEP reparation for buying water when it becomes unsafe or undesirable, such as what ConEd does with reimbursement of food during a blackout.
- Mayor went to Albany to talk budget. Asked for \$\$ for Parks Enforcement; expansion of shot-spotter program (sensors to detect gunshots and alert 911); \$45mil to make AP courses universal at HS; adult training at homeless shelters for employment readiness/job placement; and many other important items.
- Bill requiring reporting on demographics of Desk Appearance Tickets (DATs) which it is believed are given out unfairly in communities of color.
- Discretionary funding requests due in February & March
- Gave a proclamation honoring outgoing CB12 Chair George Fernandez, acknowledging his service.

7:47pm **Report from Giovanni Puello for the Manhattan Borough President’s Office**

- CB applications are due Friday, 1/29 at c/o/b (5pm). Available on-line. Encouraging younger members of the community, including 16- & 17-year-olds to apply
- State of the Borough this Sunday, 1/31 at 2pm (doors open at 1) at the Tisch Auditorium of the New School for Social Research.
- Update on Associated; MBP is reaching out to parties to come to negotiating table.
- Re Armory Foundation re accessibility for CBOs. Met with Dr. Norbert Sanders. Set advertised rate, and is giving additional consideration regarding possible free use. They also will be working with another small CBO looking to continue to remain in the Armory.
- Solid Waste Advisory Board (SWAB) applications also due 1/29. Committed to recycling and reducing waste



7:55pm **Public Session** (Chaired by Secretary, Elizabeth Lorris Ritter; time-keeping by Esteban Nembhard)

**Irina Tavera, Mayor’s Office:** IDNYC now includes free memberships at 40 cultural institutions.

**Thomas Trinidad & Inwood Community Services:** summer youth program runs for six weeks (July/Aug). Would like to open the program to new businesses. Last year we served 700 kids, would like to serve 1000 this year.

**Jemal Edwards & Brad Doles, ChocNYC:** Opening a modern, upscale bakery in inwood.

**Paul Hintersteiner, community resident:** still experiencing traffic problems on Ft. George Hill

**Danita Nichols, NY Public Library:** Inwood Library, and representing FW & WH branches. Because of community advocacy last spring, all three uptown libraries have expanded service, are open until 7pm four days/wk, and open at 10am six days/wk. Help spread the word! Got capital funding to completely renovate the Ft. Washington branch. It’s not currently accessible; this will be a complete renovation, which takes a lot of time. Currently in the design phase; will begin community engagement as soon as the architect is chosen. We will be making this ADA compliant, and opening up the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor for programming. Probably 3-4 years before completion. Tax season: free filing help beginning eligibility <\$60k income and a valid email address.

**Caterina Rivera, community resident:** Works for City Harvest, here as a resident. Lived in WH for 8 years.

Concerned about gentrification and new development; has seen a lot about impacts of poverty through

work w/ City Harvest. Proposed new development at Sherman/Elwood bordering on Ft. Tryon Park: 23-story building; too tall. They need upzoning approval; we have to stop this. Monday Feb 8<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30, community forum on affordable housing for Inwood, WH & West Harlem. She was referred to Housing/Human Services.

**Betty Lehmann, Isabella Geriatric Center:** early education childcare center. Also openings in our independent senior housing. Moderately priced for Manhattan: \$2.4k studio, \$2.8k 1BR including all utilities/meals.

**Sorelys Irizarry, Literacy INC:** working with young children to get them school ready. Looking for volunteers for guest readers. Announced upcoming events.

**Nicole O'Brien, The Pandering Pig:** community resident and now restaurateur featuring French/NoCal cuisine. The Pandering Pig will close early, not a late-night place.

**Joel Yoffie, community resident:** read a poem

**Natalie Espino, CUNY in the Heights:** Available for tabling at fairs to spread the word on CUNY in the Heights programming. Shared info on children's (ages 5+) full day-programs with meals provided during upcoming school winter break. Catalogues available.

**Phil Zablocki, Advocates for Integrity & Fairness:** glad that there is progress being made regarding the Armory.

**Kevin Meyers & Dr. Gary Altheim, Growth & Development Services (GDS):** spoke about the GDS program, extra-curricular programs. The community needs more youth programs. Kevin is 19 years old and found GDS to be very helpful, and also volunteered there over the summer and saw the positive impact on other kids. Please attend our upcoming open house to learn more. Dr. Gary gave a shout-out to his wife, Theo Cuevas, a social worker who volunteers her services at GDS.

**Esteban Nembhard, Communist Party:** Fight for 15, and affordable housing. We were told that we were crazy when we started these fights, but we are winning because we stuck together. We need fill buses going from this community to Albany to tell this story to the NYS Senate. We need to tell them what it's like to live in NYC earning less than \$15. Also encouraged attendance at upcoming (Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>) housing forum.

**Sally Fisher, Friends of Inwood Hill Park:** NYC Parks holding public scoping meeting on Nature Center Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>. Announced upcoming green neighborhood stewardship event; invited GDS and another youth groups to attend. Parks is open 365 days a year (this year 366)! Nature restoration project breaking ground later this month. Noted issues with water quality in this neighborhood given sewer overflows. Also overcrowding due to development. Finally, announcing the exciting Inwood Film Festival, upcoming on March 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>. All festival pass for \$30. All films about Inwood, or by inwood filmmakers; who needs TriBeCa?!

**Yi Chen, CUNY Graduate Center:** Interview-based research study at the graduate center. Looking at career trajectory of immigrants. Interested in learning the factors that helped them get to where they are: family or community resources, scholarships, mentors, etc. obstacles they faced in the process? How do they shape and influence today's society. Looking to interview professionals with such background and experience, especially those of Dominican, Mexican, Chinese & Turkish origin.

**Victor Verhaeghe, community resident** Filmmaker in Washington Heights doing a video project to raise awareness about gun violence: "What if we tried love?". Not with a company or agency; it's my own thing, working with local actors. We need \$3k by Sunday, in order to reach our Kickstarter target of \$10k.

**Sarah Deutsch, Washington Heights CORNER Project:** re syringe disposal project. We have picked up thousands of syringes and disposed of them properly. We propose to place a disposal kiosk in Ft. Washington Park, which the Parks Department has approved contingent on CB approval. We will be evaluating it to see if we are seeing a decrease in improperly disposed syringes; we will be in communication with Community Board and Parks Department on success of the project to improve safety of our parks. Urged support of reso.

8:45pm **NYS Assemblymember Guillermo Linares, 72<sup>nd</sup> AD:** left report on legislative initiatives and priorities.

- Congratulations to newly elected officers.
- Fighting for funds for affordable housing and senior housing
- Your voices are important in the weeks ahead to ensure that the budget we pass incorporates all of the needs and priorities of this community

8:47pm **5-minute recess for networking, personal needs**

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8:58pm **Roll call for quorum and attendance:** those not present will not be considered present for the meeting. Quorum still present, albeit of different composition, more members having arrived, and two having left.

9:00pm **Committee Reports**

9:00pm **Yahaira Alonzo, Chair, Traffic & Transportation:** presentation of resolution on No Standing Zone in front of the Edge Hotel. Some minor suggestions on wording corrections and clarifications to reflect that the medical offices in the building are substantial, taking up 5 floors; these were accepted as friendly. Clarifying questions regarding curb cuts (no) and if the hotel otherwise has available on-site parking (no). Richard Allman asked a question about the Imperial Parking Company, and the lack of available parking in the community. Q: (P. Palanque-North) re closing of the 163<sup>rd</sup> St. C-train stop; A: we will follow up and discuss at next meeting.

9:10pm **Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Chair, Parks & Cultural Affairs:** Presented two resolutions, regarding programming, capital projects & concessions in CD12M Parks, and CORNER Project syringe disposal box in Ft. Washington Park at Haven Ave. & W. 178<sup>th</sup> St. In response to several questions regarding overall purpose of the first reso she clarified that it continues dialogue with Parks Revenue and Capital Divisions as to community needs as an extension of the concession review and budget priorities processes. Re syringe disposal kiosk, Ms. Deutsch of CORNER Project amply covered the need for and explanation of the second reso in her presentation.

9:15pm **Wayne Benjamin, Chair, Land Use:** Kudos to Assistant Chair Andrea Kornbluth on excellent and timely minutes. Goals for 2016: looking for update from BSA on 4460 Broadway (former Quadriad sites) which is 2-3x allowable height; next steps on MIH/ZQA; Inwood rezoning: contextual zoning needs to conform everything that is part of zoning/land use matters. Getting LPC to pay more attention to upper Manhattan's history and culture.

9:19pm **Ayisha Ogilvie, Chair, Housing & Human Services:** refer to minutes. In light of the recent situation with the water, it is useful to know how to get this kind of information out quickly. Health/Environment Committee also will be discussing this. Also, regarding the ITT Task Force, due to the water issue, CB12's FaceBook page had high visibility, 3k views, highest ever.

9:22pm **Steve Simon, Chair, Health & Environment:** Introduced reso regarding reusable bags intro at city council, which was co-sponsored by our Councilmembers, Ydani Rodriguez and Mark Levine. This is a significant environmental issue. This is being done around the country and around the world. As virtually all of the questions were addressed in the minutes of the Committee's meeting, there was little additional discussion. Two members spoke passionately against the reso on the grounds that it is a tax on the poor and middle class.

9:36pm **Aldemar Diaz, Chair, Licensing:** met last Wednesday as there were several members sick and the regularly scheduled meeting was cancelled. 14 resos considered. 11 in support; 1 withdrawn; 2 opposed: Bekare was found to have opened on New Year's Eve prior to having received a license; #14 Sea Flower Fish Market didn't appear. Q: Why is Pampered Pig applying for OPL; she said she'd only be serving wine. A: she applied for OPL, and will be able to serve mixed drinks as part of method of operation.

9:41pm **Arlene Schulman, Chair, Public Safety:** my first as chair. Refer to minutes. Welcome to Javier Trejo, Principal of GWHS for Media/Comm. April meeting: anything with Parking, we will have someone from DCA come to talk about valet parking to discuss licensing, in addition to the NYPD enforcement. Next meeting: for arrest to probation: speakers include insp. Aramboles from NYPD 33<sup>rd</sup> Pct., ADA Molly Brottmiller and Judge Shari Michels. Focus on adults in an expanded format since youth issue is more complicated. Q (P. Palanque-North): gun buyback? A: Yes, in the works for a reso. Both precincts are in support. ADA and Sen. Espallat are in support. We are fact-finding on number and types of guns, as well as the usage potential. ADA office generally doesn't support because they don't net as many guns as they'd like, but it's still guns off the street which is why these programs have support in the community. Hope to have reso next month.

9:47pm **Maurice Owen-Michaane, Chair, Business Development**, referred to the minutes and announced that there will be a Public Hearing on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at PS/IS187 regarding the impending closure of Associated Supermarket on Ft. Washington Ave., to be replaced by a Walgreen's. Announced upcoming job fair in April.

9:48pm **Mary Anderson, Assistant Chair, Concerns of the Aging**: refer to minutes.

9:48pm **Richard Allman, Chair, LGBTQ Task Force**: initial meeting last week. Smart, energetic and cool group of people. A mix of Board members, activists and concerned residents who are looking to make their mark in the community on this issue. More detailed as a draft work plan emerges in the next couple of months, including needs assessment. Thanks-yous to Betty Lehmann for making space available here, and to CB12 for making this issue a priority on which to focus.

9:46pm **Fe Florimon, Chair, Youth & Education**: Refer to minutes. Due to some AV issues, unable to give presentation on summary of last year and goals in the coming year; will present next month.

9:50pm **Roll Call on 17 resolutions**

| Item # | Resolutions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Voting:<br>Y-N-Abst-<br>Absent<br>NV | Passed or<br>Failed |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| A.     | Traffic & Transportation Committee Resolution favoring a NO STANDING ANYTIME ZONE at the New Edge Hotel.                                                                                                                                          | 34-0-1-0                             | <i>passed</i>       |
| B.     | Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee Resolution regarding Programming, Capital Projects & Concessions in CD12M Parks.                                                                                                                               | 34-0-0-1                             | <i>passed</i>       |
| C.     | Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee Resolution regarding a Syringe Disposal Box at Haven Avenue & W. 178 <sup>th</sup> Street.                                                                                                                     | 33-0-1-1                             | <i>passed</i>       |
| D.     | Health & Environment Committee Resolution in partial support of Int. No. 209, in relation to reducing the use of plastic and paper bags in retail stores, groceries and supermarkets.                                                             | 28-2-5-0                             | <i>passed</i>       |
| 1.     | Licensing Committee Resolution to recommend the SLA to grant a Renewal of its On-Premises Liquor License to Mary K Mac Inc. dba Patrick's Dyckman Bar – 221 Dyckman Street, (bet. Seaman Avenue & Broadway.)                                      | 32-1-2-0                             | <i>passed</i>       |
| 2.     | Licensing Committee Resolution to recommend the SLA to grant a Renewal of its On-Premises Liquor License to El Nuevo Jobo Restaurant & Bar Inc. – 3915 Broadway, (at the corner of W. 164 <sup>th</sup> Street.)                                  | 30-3-2-0                             | <i>passed</i>       |
| 3.     | Licensing Committee Resolution to recommend the SLA to grant a Renewal of its On-Premises Liquor License to 565 West Side Café Corp. dba Cana Y Café Bar & Grill – 565 W. 207 <sup>th</sup> Street, (bet. Vermilyea & Sherman Avenues.)           | 31-2-2-0                             | <i>passed</i>       |
| 4.     | Licensing Committee Resolution to recommend the SLA to grant a Renewal of its On-Premises Liquor License to Kiara Food Inc. dba Manolo Tapas Restaurant – 4165, 4167 & 4169 Broadway, (bet. W. 176 <sup>th</sup> & W. 177 <sup>th</sup> Streets.) | 32-1-2-0                             | <i>passed</i>       |
| 5.     | Licensing Committee Resolution to recommend the SLA to grant a Renewal of its Tavern Wine License to Taszo Coffee LLC. – 5 Edward Morgan Place, (bet. W. 157 <sup>th</sup> & W. 158 <sup>th</sup> Streets.)                                       | 32-2-1-0                             | <i>passed</i>       |
| 6.     | Licensing Committee Resolution to recommend the SLA to grant a Change in the Method of Operation to Broadway & 166th LLC. dba Dallas BBQ – 3956 Broadway, (at the corner of W. 166th Street.)                                                     | 32-1-2-0                             | <i>passed</i>       |
| 7.     | Licensing Committee Resolution to recommend the SLA to grant a Change in the Method of Operation to Vida Café Inc. dba Mamajuana Café – 243-249 Dyckman Street, (bet. Payson & Seaman Avenues.)                                                   | 30-3-2-0                             | <i>passed</i>       |

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| 8.  | Licensing Committee Resolution to recommend the DCA to grant a Renewal of its Unenclosed Sidewalk Café License to International Drink Group Inc. dba Buddha Beer Bar – 4476 Broadway, (bet. Fairview Ave & W, 193rd St.) | 32-1-2-0 | <i>passed</i> |
| 9.  | Licensing Committee Resolution to recommend the SLA to grant a New On-Premises Liquor License to The Pandering Pic, Inc. dba The Pandering Pig – 209 Pinehurst Avenue, (at the corner of W. 187th Street.)               | 30-3-2-0 | <i>passed</i> |
| 10. | Licensing Committee Resolution to not recommend the SLA to grant a New On-Premises Liquor License to Bakare Restaurant & Lounge Inc. – 524 W. 207th Street, (bet. Post & Sherman Avenues.)                               | 34-1-0-0 | <i>passed</i> |
| 11. | Licensing Committee <Application Withdrawn>                                                                                                                                                                              | n/a      | <n/a>         |
| 12. | Licensing Committee Resolution to recommend the SLA to grant a New Restaurant Wine License to Vinifera Wine Room Inc. – 3775 10th Avenue, (bet. W. 202nd & W. 203rd Streets.)                                            | 25-8-2-0 | <i>passed</i> |
| 13. | Licensing Committee Resolution to recommend the SLA to grant a New Restaurant Wine License to 4455 Restaurant Group Inc. – 4455 Broadway, (bet. Fairview Avenue & W. 193rd Street.)                                      | 28-6-1-0 | <i>passed</i> |
| 14. | Licensing Committee Resolution to not recommend the SLA to grant a New Eating Place Beer License to Seaflower Fish Market Inc. – 4127 Broadway, (bet. W. 174 & W. 175th Streets.)                                        | 34-1-0-0 | <i>passed</i> |

10:01pm **Maridel de la Cruz from NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer’s office** made announcements regarding an upcoming clergy seminar, and the IDNYC card and its expanded introductory benefits. Q: (M. Owen-Michaane) the snow removal jobs discriminate on undocumented immigrants. Also they don’t pay \$15, only \$13-and-change. A: These positions are with DSNY not the Comptroller’s Office. Q: (S. Fisher) Are you doing anything about the Inwood rezoning? A: Yes, I will take it back.

10:05pm **Frank Hess, Office of NYS Assemblymember Herman D. Farrell, Jr., 71<sup>st</sup> AD:** refer to report. Working on budget hearings, which will continue through next week.

10:06pm **Motion to adjourn** by M. Owen-Michaane; second by Katherine Diaz. No objection.

Respectfully submitted: Elizabeth Lorris Ritter